

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 THE HA 04295 281500Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-15 NEA-10 TRSE-00 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 DRC-01

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R 281358Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2072

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

USLO AFCENT

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

CONFIDENTIAL THE HAGUE 4295

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, NL, NATO

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF AFCENT FROM BRUNSSUM

REFS: (A) USNATO 4544

(B) THE HAGUE 4253

1. PRESTIGIOUS NRC HANDELSBLAD (MOST AUTHORITATIVE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COVERAGE) HAD LENGTHY ARTICLE SEPT 27 ANALYZING ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST MOVING AFCENT HEADQUARTERS FROM BRUNSSUM. ARTICLE STRESSED THERE WERE TWO ARGUMENTS FOR TRANSFER: (A) MILITARY-ECONOMIC ARGUMENT, AND (B) AMERICAN POLITICAL ARGUMENT. UNDER (A) ARTICLE REHEARSES REASONS BEHIND ORIGINAL TRANSFER OF AFCENT FROM FONTAINBLEU AND ADDRESSES ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THIS TRANSFER TO LIMBURG. ARTICLE THEN EXPLORERS PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN COP-LOCATION OF GROUND AND AIR COMMANDS. ADDRESSING (B) NRC NOTES US DOMESTIC PRESSURE FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 THE HA 04295 281500Z

WESTERN EUROPEAN TROOP REDUCTION. ARTICLE, WHICH STATES PROPOSED

TRANSFER WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE TROOP CUTS AND CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL SAVINGS, SUGGESTS THIS MAY BE PRINCIPLE REASON WHY AFCENT TRANSFER BEING SUGGESTED. ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT KEY QUESTION NOW IS WHAT GON WILL DO. NRC QUOTES "MILITARY SOURCE IN LUMBURG" WHO THINK SHOULD GON STRONGLY APPPOSE AFCENT TRANSFER, SUCH TRANSFER WILL PROBABLY NOT OCCUR. NRC SAYS NATO WOULD PROBABLY BE UNWILLING APPROVE SUCH A TRANSFER WHEN COUNTRY FROM WHICH THE HEADQUARTERS BEING REMOVED APPPOSED.

2. IN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION, TWO KVP MEMBERS OF SECOND CHAMBER, BOTH FROM LIMBURG, HAVE ASKED MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS TO COMMENT ON POSSIBLE TRANSFER. THERE HAS BEEN NO ADDITIONAL REACTION FROM DEFENSE MINISTRY OTHER THAN THAT REPORTED REF (B). POLCOUNS AND DAO MET SEPT 27 WITH REPRESENTATIVE OF AMERICAN ELEMENT AFCENT WHO BRIEFED EMBASSY ON STATUS REORGANIZATION STUDY. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO RPT NO QUERIES ON POSSIBLE TRANSFER, BUT SHOULD SUCH QUERIES MATERIALIZE, EMBASSY WILL TAKE LINE THIS IS STRICTLY NATO MATTER.

TANGUY

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NNN

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